Daily Herald

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Provincial Capital. & autonomy

MASS MEETING TONIGHT

Tonight a mass meeting will be held in Alexander hall for the purpose of discussing autonomy. Steps will be taken to organize this section of the Territories in the interest of fair play for Calgary as an applicant for capital honors.

The first step was taken Monday evening when the Board of Trade declared for an active campaign to present the claims of this part of the west as the seat of government for one of the new provinces. Another meeting was held Tuesday afternoon at the Board of Trade rooms and today the mayor issued the call for the mass meeting on the representation of a large number of prominent citizens.

This afternoon the council and a committee of Board of Trade members are in conference, outlining a plan of action.

There is a well defined feeling that Calgary must take vigorous action if the chief city of the Territories is to receive the consideration due it in the selection of a capital.

The meeting tonight is expected to interest every resident of Calgary and central Alberta. This ought to insure a large attendance.

There are so many sound reasons why Calgary should be named as the seat of government for the western province that the citizens are anxious to place the acts before the members at Ottawa, who must decide the question.

For every reason in favor of any other section of the Territories why the capital should be located elsewhere, Calgary can offer several additional reasons why the capital should be placed at the confluence of the Bow and Elbow.

What is more to the point, however, is to safeguard Calgary's interests in the preliminary skirmish. It is intended to make a strong fight against any other prominent candidate for capital honors being named as the temporary seat of government. In justice to every section of the Territories Calgary takes the position that some obscure point should be named as the scene of the first assembly, so as to give every city and town contending for the permanent capital honors fair play.

It is to secure this manifestly fair decision of the Dominion government that the mass meeting is to be held tonight. A delegation is to be sent to Ottawa to take care of central Alberta's interests.

Before the members of the Board of Trade yesterday several addresses dealt in an interesting and cogent manner with the question "Where will the capital of the new western province be located?" They considered that it is a pity that more data are not available. If such were at hand, the question, which is not only a new one but is important and is soon to be settled, could be discussed in a much more satisfactory manner.

Even as it is, however, certain facts are clear. It may be assumed that the two claimants for the position are Calgaty and Edmonton. First of all, from a geographical point of view, Calgary occupies a strong place. Taking it as the centre of a circle with radius of two hundred miles, it would serve a huge territory, including all the towns northerly as far as Edmonton.

To the southward, it could reach the boundary, westernly, all places to the Rocky mountains, and easterly to a point considerably east of Medicine Hat.

If, on the other hand, Edmonton were chosen, it would reach to and include Calgary, but all that important and magnificent stretch of country lying between here and the international boundary would be beyond the two hundred miles circle. The Edmonton circle would, of course, include a vast range to the north, but whatever the future may bring forth for that country, at the present day it certainly is not comparable in point of development or resources with what lies south of Calgary.

In the years to come it may, and probably will, develop, but so will the southern land, and in all probability at a faster rate and on a sounder basis. As matters are, and as they are likely to be, Calgary is much nearer the centre of the territory to be served.

According to the electoral distribution which took place not long ago and to which no serious objection has been taken in any quarter, Calgary again outclasses Edmonton.

If a little more time were available, figures concerning the amount of work done in different sections of the west by the post office, inland revenue and customs departments could be obtained and would be of great importance to a reliable solution of the question.

Referring to the question of present railway mileage in the respective districts, the Calgary section now has 994-miles to about 150 in the Edmonton section.

Even after allowance is made for the Canadian Northern and for the more remote Grand Trunk Pacific, the balance of mileage will be largely in favor of Calgary, as important extensions are even now under way.

Water power is more abundant in the southern section. The country abounds with streams which contain great possibilities for the production of energy. To the north, difficulty exists because of the level nature of much of the land through which the northern streams flow. Even in regard to the question of fuel supply the south is better supplied than the north. In the north, lignite alone is found. In the south there are anthracite and bituminous.

Summing up, then, the reasons favoring Calgary, it is found that they include a better geographical position, a superiority in point of population, greater natural resources, greater railway development, and, with reasonable certainty, a perponderance in regard to postal, inland revenue and customs matters.